



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 169

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2023

No. 16

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. TENNEY).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 25, 2023.

I hereby appoint the Honorable CLAUDIA TENNEY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 9, 2023, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

REMEMBERING LIN BREHMER, A CHICAGO TREASURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, almost 11 years ago today, I spoke on the anniversary of two Chicago treasures: Radio station WXRT and one of its beloved hosts, Lin Brehmer.

This weekend, we lost Lin at the age of 68 after a long battle with cancer. Lin was a Chicago icon, a poet, a Renaissance man, and a friend. For my colleagues who have not lived in Chicago, let me explain.

In the movie, "Almost Famous," there is a scene where the protagonist's oldest sister has left her record collection, and she tells him, "Look under your bed. It will set you free." That is what XRT did for us in Chicago and that is what Lin did for me and so many Chicagoans.

Before XRT, AM radio, a dry, repetitive desert was our only option for music. After XRT, we were transformed. It became a 24-hour station in 1976, demonstrating our city's unique commitment to independent thinking and an unbridled celebration of art and music.

Like many others, XRT linked us to a new world. XRT encouraged me to leave my sterile environment and travel to the Earl of Old Town to see Steve Goodman and my first concert at the Aragon Ballroom to see Mott the Hoople and the New York Dolls, not to mention other famous haunts like the Metro, the Vic, Checkerboard Lounge, to see greats like Iggy Pop, David Bowie, Muddy Waters, Frank Zappa, Roxy Music, and so many others.

When Lin became the music director at WXRT in 1984, he helped introduce us to new music, new genres, and new emotions. Today, when so much of music is driven by algorithms and data, it can be difficult to imagine a time when a station could often be steered by a single man's eclectic tastes, but that is what Lin did. He played what he wanted to hear, and somehow, he always knew what the city needed to hear.

He opened my eyes to the true power of music. He taught me that music can show you new worlds, can help you understand new perspectives. It can often soothe during difficult times and inspire you to explore what you never considered exploring before.

Lin Brehmer was my friend, but I recognize that I am far from the only one who could claim that coveted title. He was born a New Yorker and began

his radio career filling in at his university's student-run station during the summer.

The first song he ever performed was The Beatles' "Within You Without You." Later, he would explain that he chose it because "I have always felt that life flows within you, but most of all without you."

At Albany's WQBK-FM, he became known as the "Reverend of Rock 'n' Roll" for his penchant for reciting poetry during song introductions. Lin came to Chicago in 1984 to become the music director, and his taste left an indelible mark on the station and on the entire city.

He hosted the morning drive for more than 30 years talking to thousands of Chicagoans over the years on their daily commutes. He loved the Cubs, Chicago's music, theater, and dining, and he shared those loves with us.

From Lin, we learned about the best restaurants in the city. We shared in the Cubs' wins and often losses, and gained new perspectives from his essays in "Lin's Bin," a rare combination of nostalgia, humor, empathy, kindness, and spirituality.

I was honored to have lunch with Lin at some of Chicago's most iconic locales like Manny's and Ann Sather's, and to have spent a memorable Cubs' game at his side.

As he himself described, he regularly went out in his "eating pants," an outfit with enough give to accommodate another Chicago meal at places like the Wiener's Circle.

Last July, he shared with his listeners that he had been diagnosed with prostate cancer and began a leave of absence to undergo treatment. This November, I know I wasn't the only Chicagoan who was delighted when he briefly returned to the airwaves.

Now, during his time at WXRT, he was named music director of the year three times and was voted the music director of the decade by readers of the

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

H283